# ONWARD TO RICHMOND!

**Another Brilliant Action** with the Rebels.

The Enemy Still in Full Retreat.

McClellan Pushing Him to the Wall.

The Rebels Driven Across the Chickahominy.

THE BATTLE AT WILLIAMSBURG.

Interesting and Graphic Account of Hancock's Famous Bayonet Charge.

The Wonderful Infantry Charge of the Rebels.

NAPOLEONIC MOVEMENTS OF M'CLELLAN

The Change on the Field of Battle on His Taking Command.

SOURCE THE RILLER VOUNDED AND MISSING

The Rapid Following Up of His McClellan.

TT'S OPINION.

O RICHMOND.

Most brilliant and gratifying news continues to pour in from General McClellan's headquarters: on Sunday at Yorktown, on Monday In front of Williamsburg, on Tuesday in Williamsburg, and on Wednesday ten miles beyond—on the banks of the Chickahominy. We give all the details of the important operations on these four days that our space will permit. Our special reporter's account of Hancock's famous bayonet charge, and of the splendid manœuvres of Wheeler's New York battery on receiving the wonderful charge of three thousand rebel infantry, show the pluck, skill and endurance of the American soldier.

# THE NEWS.

DESPATCH FROM GEN. MARCY TO DR. MARCY.

Only about thirty thousand of our troops were engaged against fifty thousand of the best retal troops.

Our men fought most valiantly, and used the bayonet freely, which the rebels could not stand. They fought well until they felt the cold steel, when they took to their heels and ran like hounds, leaving their dead wounded and sick upon our hands

Joe Johnston led them in person. They have lost several of their best officers.

# RETREAT OF THE REBEL FORCES.

Battle of Williamsburg-Operations of

WHEN THEY STARTED AND WHERE THEY INTENDED TO GO. their retreet from the position at Lee's Mill and the other works which had been occupied by their right, and which stretch in a nearly continuous line down to the James river. Transportation for medical stores, &c., was furnished to the Chickshominy river, as appears by an order found in the fort after their departure. By an other order found, and which is dated Saturday, May 3, Seperal Cobb was ordered to send captains of companies that were to be on picket that night to headquarters, in to the roads to be taken by them that night. Before daylight on Sunday not a man was left, and at six in the morning on that day Lieutenant B. Frank Fisher, United States Signal Corps, from tils tower on our front, made the discovery that the enemy's fort nearest to us was empty. Here was a disappointment for somebody; for prepara it is had actually been made to storm that very fort or Sunday night. However, we had it at a chooper rate On General Smith's front, also, the discovery of the ene my's retreat was made at a very early hour, and fre Close after it came information from General Summe that the enemy was in full retreat toward Williamsbur e ward Graham's brigade, of Couch's division, Colon Adams commanding; Negley's brigade, of Casey's divi sion; the Fifth regiment United States cavalry, Major Thittiesey, and three batteries of light artillery. This

-mand, and the cavalry pushed forward - the James river, while the he road towards the Half

rhole Fourth corps was or

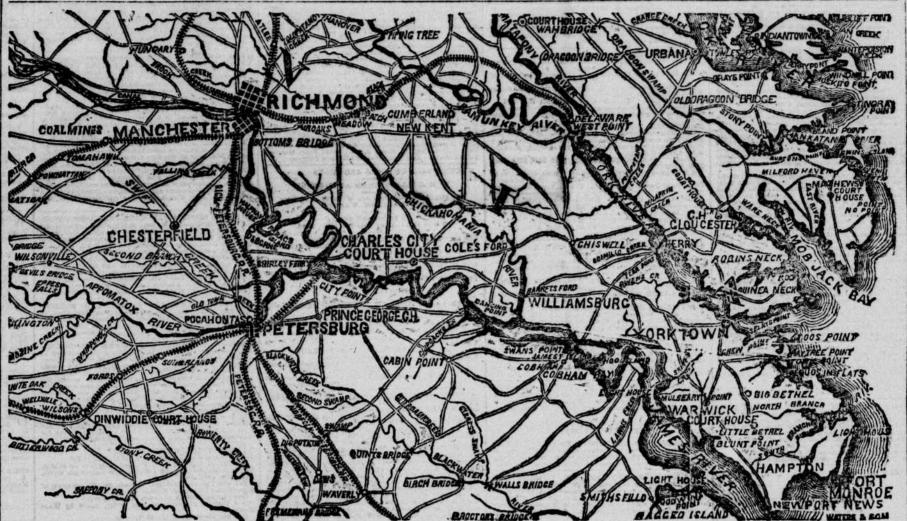
"t at Lee's Mill there was th rionity at every step. For avored to learn the exact posiries, pits, ditches, etc., and

irm: an enigma was solved a

s had never seen them. We gradually rising on the farther side to a height of considerable elevation, which commands every inch of the lower ground that sweeps all around it—every obstructed so that the progress of any considerable body of men across it is the simplest impossibility—imagice

had to sep-

The Line of the Chickahominy---The Roads from Williamsburg to the Rebel Capital.



of the position at Lee's Mill; but only the sight of it can convey a full idea of its absolute impregnability, if held with the proper number of men and guns. From a prisoner we learn that Magruder, when it was determi to retreat, got drunk and swore terribly—worse, perhaps, than the army did "in Flanders"—and wanted to know where they could fight the Yankees, if not there. As Magruder does get drunk, the rest of the

CHIVALRY AND THE LAST DITCH. Within the fort we found a characteristic feature of chivalrous warfare in the shape of percussion shells, buried in the roads in such a namer that the foot of either a man or horse might come in contact with the percuesion cap and explode the shell. One of these killed one man and wounded five. Numbers of them were dug up. A SKIRMISH.

From the examination of the fort we were diverted by a report that the enemy was not far ahead, and after a hard ride to the front we found that a cavalry skirmish had already taken place in the road, and had quickened the enemy's pace. Hooker's division, of Beintzelman's corps, moreover, had crossed our front, gotten to the left of the left wing, and was then engaged in the exchange of a sharp fire of musketry with the enemy Soon after Gibson's battery, engaged in Hooker's front, was roughly handled by the enemy, lost three caissons ever, the enemy got away. Smith's division, of the Fourth corps, moved up and took position to Hooker's, right, near nightfall; and so closed the Sunday. OUT O'NIGHT.

During the night it began to rain, blankets, had a hard time of it, and were of course drenched before day. Experience only can ap-preciate a night passed in such a way, and be properly

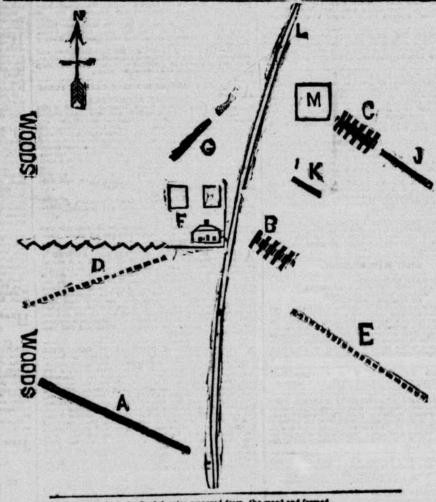
e were, and the enemy made a similar discovery some what later. Our proximity in force was, it seems, some what of a surprise to him. He had thought we could not get up within reach for two or three days yet, and had already begun his retreat from Williamsburg; but the rapidity of our movements changed that, and secesh was actually compelled to turn back and fight for the salvation of its army. We might say, without exaggera tion, that the Southern army has relays of fortifications at short distances all the way on the road to Richmond peninsule is honeycombed with batteries overtake them where we may the rebels So it proved here. We had approached Williamsburg from a direction a little south of east, on the regular Yorktown road, and right on the road, in sight of the steeples of the quaint old capital, we found Fort Magru-To the north and south of it were redoubts, which estab lished a fortified line of three miles in extent, in which the enemy had twenty-one guns. Every approach was well covered by his guns. The approach on the front was obstructed by a heavy abatis, and the trees were felled for a mile to give his guns the clearest possible

At about eight A. M. they determined to interrupt our further examination of their little arrangements, and threw out a body of infantry to their right, which soon Though it did not at first seem serious, this fire was ox changed intermittently for a good while. Some light pretty hard, until unluckily they got under fire of the enemy's heavier guns, when they, of course, got the worst of it. Bramhall's New York battery, in particuiar, had gotten into a scrape, and a very hard fight took place in the endeavor to save it. All the horses were either killed or wounded, the guns were m red, and, though our men fought well and hard the enemy poured his infantry out lavishly at the right time and in the right place, and finally carried away the guns, with a most terrible shorus of yelps and cheers.

It was near noon, and the enemy, encouraged by his uccess on our left, was disposed to push harder in the ame direction. Two divisions of the Fourth corps were now on the field, and Peck's brigade, of Couch's division, with two regiments of Devens' brigade—the Seventh Massachusetts, Col. Russell, and the Second Rhode Island, Col. Frank Wheaten—in all about six thousand men, were pushed in to the right of Hooker, stopped the enemy's advance, and perhaps saved Hooker entirely. Pack's position was not one that afforded a chance for any brilliant display; but it required the most stubborn resistance, and he maintained it handsomely all day, and repulsed every attempt that the enemy made to advance haps, by his orders, he could not go on, and was thus kept under such a fire that it is a miracle his loss proved o small. For a great portion of the time h men were flat on their faces, and many of their wounds around the place were cut to shreds with grapeshot General Peck, late in the aftern on, was supported by l'almer's brigade, of Casey's division, and thus formed

very atrong centre.

But while thus on the left and centre, with a modicion of reverse, we at best did little better than bold our own, the right presented a more grateful speciacle. SCENE OF HANCOCK'S FAMOUS BAYONET CHARGE.



4-Point at which the Confederates emerged from the wood and formed.

B-First position of Wheeler's battery.

G\_Second position of Wheeler's battery. D-Skirmishers of Fifth Wisconsia and Forty-third New York

E-Skirmishers of Sixth Maine.

P\_Farm House and Barns. GH-Line of Forty-third New York and Fifth Wisconsin regime

J-Line of Sixth Maine regiment. K-Point at which the rebel line was charged and broke.

Pond of Wannock's advance. W. First redoubt taken by Hancock.

Smith's division was formed on the right front of our line of battle, and some portion of its artillery bothered the enemy at long range, while its three brigades of infantry were held in hand ready to participate when called u.or. They were called upon soon. From shative we had learned of a good road that led through the woods to our right, and approached the enemy's position upon a side from which we had not hitherto seen it. General Hancock's brigads, with Wheeler's New York battery was accordingly sent out by this road. After a long at autious march through the woods, and a wide circuit which opened in full view of the York river, the head of the column found an numistakable evidence that the enemy had expected an advance by this way. To the left of the line of march there was a wide, full dam, and there for some distance the road had formerly run close by the water side; but the dam had now been so raise that the road was flooded and impassable for a considerable distance. No time was to be lost, and a party at nce got to work to cut a new road through the woods over steep hill, and did the work as well as circumstance would permit. But the bed of the new road was of yellow clay, and as the rain poured down and softened it the artillery sank deeper and deeper into it at every turn of the wheels. Still all toiled on bravely and with a will, and inally came out to a wide open field in full view of three edoubts of considerable size, but not pierced for can non. Why the enemy had occupied these works at all it would be difficult to say; for no scotter was our fie opened upon the nearest than the robols burst out of it in complete stampeds, and made good time in a safe direction. So they did also from the second and third, upon which our column advanced. At this time, about two P. M., General Hancock sent back word to the division ommander, General Smith, that he had a fair chance to go on, and that if well supported he could certainly carry Fort Magrader. General Smith had a short time be ere asked permission to go forward, and had been ordered usssage to General Sumner, with a renewed request for permission to go forward. Orders came, in answer, for him to go on, with his whole division, to Hancock's support. Scarcely, however, had he spoken a few necessary preliminary words to the officers about him before the order just given was countermanded by General Summer, and General Smith was ordered to relain his men exactly in the position they then held. By this last HANCOCK WARTS TO GO ARRAD.

Several times General Hancock sent back urger beals for more force; but none was sent, and he was compelled to remain in the position he had taken near the first edoubt. Doubtless the enemy supposed this to be the result of timidity. They in turn determined to advance, hoping, perhaps, to repeat what they had already done on our left. Out of this movement of theirs grew what proved to be the fight of the day-a fight that was in itself a hard fought and beautiful battle; a battle in which each side must have learned to respect the courses of the other, and which sheds glery upon every man en

gaged in it.
THE PORCE ENCOUNTERED BY HANCOCK. Different statements have been made as to the force he enemy had engaged in this movement. One prisone stated that there were six regiments, and another that they were led by two generals. It is probable that there they were led by two generals. It is proceed that there were two brigades, or parts of two. One of these was General Early's, and comprised the Fifth North Carolina and Twenty-fourth Virginia regiments and a Georgia regiment. Dead men were found on the field in the uniform of the Louisiana Tigers. Beyond this we cannot designate the regiments; but it would be safe to state the force at three thousand. On our part this force was enthe Forty-third New York regiments, and Captain Whee ler's battery of volunteer artillery, with some guns also, we believe, of Captain Kennedy's battery; but Captain Rennedy was on duty in another part of the field.

General Hancock's position was in an open plain of about two miles in length from north to south, and about a mile in width. He had entered it at the northerly end, and at the ther stands Fort Magruder. About a mile and a haif above Fort Magruder, and half a mile away from the line of woods that bounds the plain on the left, are a farmhouse and two barns. A fence stretches from this farmhouse to the woods. Between the farmhouse and Fort Magruder are two redoubts, and three hundred yards above the farmbonse is the first redoubt. Around this farmhouse General Hancock's men were posted.
Wheeler's battery was in position by the corner of the farm towards the plain, and commanded the whole field below it. Isshind, and well toward the first redealst on

farmhouse and the first redoubt on the right were the Fifth Wisconsin and Forty-third New York regiments. Skirmlahers from the latter were thrown out in the woods on our right and far in advance; skirmishers of the Fi'th Wisconsin were in advance on the open field, and skirmishers of the Sixth Maine were in advance, also in the open field, on our left.

Under cover of the wood, and directly through it, the enemy advanced from the neighborhood of Fort Magru-der, doubtless tempted, as we have said, by the bait of a battery of beautiful field pieces. From the sharp fire of the skirmishers in the woods on our right came the first intimation of a movement in that direction, and this put all on the alert. By the field pieces, the great central point of interest, every man was in his place and many eyes turned with deep interest on the hand-some and intellectual face of their commander, the amiable gentleman and gallant soldier, Capt. Wheeler, of the New York Volunteer Artillery. He was not only in his place, but it was eminently the right place, and he was the right man in it. Down the lines, too, of the infantry regiments all was steady, and the jaded men, who had bivouncked the night before in mud and rain, and were drabbled from head to foot with the one and wet to the skin with the other, stood up in their places like heroes, though they did not look exactly as if they were on parade. They did not have the parade dress, nor had they either the parade faces.

Still the fire grew hotter in the woods, and in a few minutes, at a point fully half a mile away from the battery, the enemy's men began to file out of the cover and form in the open field. It was a bold and proved an expensive way to handle men. Wheeler opened his guns on the the course of the brigade across the open field began at that spot. At the same moment also the skirmishers is the field began their fire. Still the enemy formed across the opening with admirable rapidity and lirected elsewhere, and then came on at the double quick step, in three distinct lines, firing as they came. All sounds were lost for a few moments in the abort roar of the field pieces, and in the scattered rattle and rapid repetition of the musketry. Naturally their fire could do us, under the circumstances, but littl narm, and thus we had them at a fair ad ventore and every nerve was strained to make the near. Already the skirminhers to the left had faller back to their line, and the akirm shers to the right had taken cover behind the rail fence that ran from the house to the woods; but from thence they blaze away earnestly as over. Yet the guns are out there, and they are what those fellows want; and in the pert in stant the guns are silent. For a moment, in the con sion and the smoke, one might almost suppose that the every had them; but in a moment more the guns emerge from the safe side of the smoke cloud, and away they go cross the field to a point near the upper redoubt. Ther again they are unlimbered, and again they play away Farther back also go the skirmishers. And now for a arm and outbuildings; but they saw that they had all their work to do over, and so they came of oth to artillery and musketry; but this time the dis tance they have got to go is not so great. They move rapidly; there, however, is another dangerous line of in fautry; they are near to us; but we also are near to them. Scarcely a hundred yards were between them and the guns when our skirmish fire became stlent; the ines of the Fifth Wisconsin and the Forty-third New York formed up in close order to the right of the battery the long range of musket barrels came to one level, and one terrible velley tore through the rebel line. In oment more the same long range of muskets came to another level-the order to charge with the bayoust was given, and away went the two regiments with one glad cheer. Gallant as our foss undoubtedly were, they couldn't meet that. But few brigades mentioned in hisory have done better than that brigade did. For a space which was generally estimated at three-quarters of mile they had advanced under the fire of a splendidly served battery, and with a cloud of skirmiener structive; and if, after that, they had not the nerve to meet a line of bayonets that came towards them like the spirit of destruction incarnate, it need not be wondered it. They broke and fied in complete panic. One hun dred and forty-five were taken prisoners. Nearly fiv It is to the eternal honor of our own men that they had

looked upon this advance of the enemy's line with a spirit of generous admiration, and that they spoke to their prisoners to a different manner from that which they use

owards prisoners generally.

This took place at about half-past four P. M. and, as will be seen, was a'together a "side fight."

On the whole field together we had been all day in very nearly the same place, and it seemed very much as there was a muddle, or at least a want of general direction or of any apparent purpose. Gen. Reyes, who had ersonally to all that was done within his corps; but he was subordinate. Was there any plan of action all tha day? Or had we pursued a fugitive army only to "had our own" when we get up to it? Such queries ran through many minds that day.

CENERAL N'CLELAN COMES UP.

At exactly five P. M. Gen. McClelian came up. In a few

minutes he had gathered around him nearly all the general efficers then accessible, heard the accounts of ca h, and stood. Scarcely ten minutes and elapsed after his ar-Gen. Hancock and to press the advantage already gained in that direction; and in five minutes more thousand men were on the march for point. Night fell before they reached it. no more was done that day; but there, as embsequent examination proved, was 'be enemy's weak point and the General saw at once what, alas! a whole army had blundered over all day.

ANOTHER BIVOUA Weary with a hard day's work, all sank down readily rough where they stood that night, and, benks ploughed land and a whole day's rain, the soldiers' bed for once was soft.

One hundred and three men wounded during the day had been brought int the hospital's near headquarters, and, under the personal supervision of Dr. Jeseph B. Brown, Medical Directs r of the Fourth corps, their wounds were all dressed by nho P. M. Of the kill d and wounded in Hooker's division we cannot at present speak; but the whole loss in the Fourth will not exceed fifty killed and one hundred and thirty wounded.

WHAT THE MEXT DAY TOLD US.
At daylight we found all the forts in our front, and Williamsb rg itself, completely abandoned by the 'ebel army, save only the dead and wounded. All along the roads and in the woods we found the enemy's dead lait unburied, and his wounded in their agonies. Every ba n was full of them, and every house in Williamsburg also and the enemy's loss cannot have been less than a thou sand killed and wounded.

#### OTHER ACCOUNTS OF THE BATTLE.

PALTMORE, May 8, 1862. The following is from the American's account of the

battle at Williamsburg :-The battle before Williamsburg on Monday was a most wasmly contested engagement. Owing to the roughless of the country and bad condition of the roads, but a small

portion of our troops could be braught into action.
General Sickles' Excelsion Brigade and General Hocker's division bore the great brant of the battle, and fought most valiantly throughout, though greatly overpowered by numbers and the superior position and earthworks of the enemy. The approaches to their works were a series of ravinos and swamps, while rain fell in torrents throughout the day. The men had also been lying on their arms all the previous night in a wood,

and were sorked with the rain and chilled with cold The battle raged from early in the morning antil five o'clock in the afternoon, when General McCllellan arrived with fresh troops, and relieved the troops of General Hocker, who were nearly prostrate with fatigue and exposure, whilst the Third Exce sior regiment of Sickles' brigade had its ranks terribly thinned by the balls of the enemy. They are represented as having fought with such imprudent bravery that not less than two hundred of them were killed and wounded.

After the arrival of General McClellan the enemy were flerocly charged by Hancock's brigade, and were driven within their works before nightfall with heavy loss. Nearly seven hundred of their dead were left on the eld, with many wounded, though most of the lattergrees carried into Williamsburg. Our loss was less than three hundred killed and about seven hundred wounded.

Night having come on, we occupied the battle field, the memy having been driven within his works, and our force laid on their arms, prepared to storm the works in

At daylight on Tuesday morning General McClellan sent out scouts, while preparing to move on the enemy works, who soon reported that he had again taken his flight during the hight.

The works of the enemy and the city of Williamsburg were then taken. prolonged defence; but the enemy had abandoned it early in the night, retreating in the greatest alarm and confusion, as described by a few negro women who we e

found in the town. A large number of wagons, munitions, and considera hie store provisions were found in the town, whilst the road was strewn for many miles with arms and accounted

A number of deserters also made their escape said came within our lines, who stated that they had received intelligence that large numbers of federal troops were landing on York river, above Williamsburg, to flank

### THE KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Our lists of killed at plete and imperiect. We give the names as far

THE EXCELSION OR SICKLES BRIGADE.

Captain Barrett.

Lieutenant Bailey.

Assistant Adjutant General Hart was struck by four

Colonel Dwight, wounded and taken prisoner, but let Major Hoit, seriously, while leading on his men. Captain Greenleaf, severely. Captain Johnson, seriously. chind by the rebels.

Lieutenant Hartney, seriously. Lieuter ant Marcus, seriously.

Sergeant Packard, seriously.
The body of Captain Willard was rifled of his watch nd meney by the enemy, as were many of our deas lis remains are en route for New York.

FOURTH NEW YORK BATTERY. CAPTAIN SMITH COMMANDING. KILLED.

Corporal W. H. Pike, severely won Robert Eban, severely woun George Ciples, severely wounded. Ino. Johnson, slightly. E. G. Yallow, slightly.

THIRTY-SEVENTII NEW YORK REGIMENT. COLONEL SAMUEL B. SATMAN COMMANDING First Lieutenant Patrick H. Hayes.

First Lieutenant J. O'Rieliy. Sergeant John Gallagher, Co. F. Corporal McDevitt, Co. F. Corporal Thomas Burke, Co. F Corporal W. Russell, Co. F. Patrick Mangam, Co. B Barnard Eagan, Co. B. W. Stevenson, Co. E. W. Ryan, Co. E. John Hickey, Co. O. John Gaffey , Co. G. John Green, Co. G. W. Martindale, Co. L. George P. Rick, Co. I Lafayette Morrow, Co. 1. JohneO'Neill, Co. K. . Jas. McGuire, Co. K.

Captain Jas. F. McGuire. Lieutenant Flannel, Co. G. Second Licutement John Massey. Second Lieutenant Edward W. Brown. Second Lieutenant James Smith. Sergeant Owen Hamburg, Co. K. Sergeant Fergus Greeley, Co. C. Corporal Pat. Triggip, Co. C. Corporal James Boyle, Co. C. Corporal Hugh White, Co. A. Corporal James A. Drew, Co. B. Corporal Mickael Kelly , Co. G. Corporal Permott Courcey, Co. G

Corporal Thomas Campbell, Co. Q ICONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE